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WESTERN FARMER AND GARDENER.

INDIANAPOLIS, MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1846.

PROSPECT FOR THE SEASON.

FRUIT.—Never do we remember such a promise of fruit, as early spring held out. From the extraordinary fullness of bloom, every one expected an immense quantity of fruit. These expectations have been much abated. In this part of the State and in the southern part, so far as we can learn, there will not be more than half a crop of apples. Peaches, in this region, will be abundant. Grapes, generally, appear well, and are swelling finely. Strawberries are abundant, and from the warmth and dryness of the weather for some weeks past, are very well ripened.

We have received from O. H. Smith, Esq., specimens of Keen's seedling, Hovey's Seedling, Early Virginia, and a variety which we understand to be wild. This gentleman ranks them in the order in which they stand. Certainly, in the specimens received, Keen's was the finest every way; one berry measuring more than four inches and a half (4½.) But we do not think Hovey's seedling has yet done itself justice. Its reputation, both east and west, where it has been grown by the side of Keen's, is that of *the* best strawberry for the main supply.

WHEAT.—Wheat never looked finer, and if it escapes rust, 1846 will surpass 1845; although that year was regarded as a very productive one. A very large crop has been put in. Old Wheat is now selling at this point (May 28) for 30 cts. per bushel.

CORN.—The season has been fine for planting. Even the flattest lands are planted; while on common fields the corn is well up, and in some cases, has received its first working. This is abundantly early.

POTATOES.—This crop has suffered more from the disease, universally felt, than would appear from any notice which papers have given. We anticipate a great increase of the evil during the summer. Much of the seed planted has been sorted out from infected crops, and doubtless, will carry its secret taint to the field, and speedily develop it.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS FOR 1845.

This annual report, is one of the felicitous *inventions* of our age; and ought itself to be patented. It is not a dry detail of models and machines; but the embodiment of the *industrial* progress of the United States from year to year. Nothing else could take its place, and no other publica-

tion has any resemblance to it. Nor do we suppose that it could be got up and circulated except by the United States Government. Only at the focus, Washington city, could the information be had in such variety, abundance, and with such facility.

Every article raised on the farm, in the orchard, or in the garden; every article of produce employed in manufactures or commerce, receives attention. There is scarcely a subject on which, in conducting our paper, we wish practical information, that we do not find treated of in this annual Industrial Encyclopedia, as it might well be called.

The mode of executing the work is not unworthy of note. It seems that everything that is said in every newspaper, journal, agricultural paper, or county political print; every scrap at home or abroad contrives to be seen by the lynx-eyed compilers of this ponderous report. These are gathered, abridged if need be, and classified, so that the work is, in some sense, a digest of the best agricultural and horticultural information of the year. We do not think it any fault that its size precludes its circulation in the community, as a paper would do. It is meant for another purpose. It is a mass of information diffused among those who, in their turn, make it their business to distribute, in parts, according to the necessities of those for whom they cater. We hope that the practice of issuing such an annual report will not soon be discontinued.

TIME FOR PRUNING.

The remarks which we made on page 84 have been, in part, objected to by some cultivators, on the ground that severe pruning, at that time, would cause old trees to canker. Young trees, it is supposed, would not be so much injured; both because they require less pruning, and because they have more vigor of constitution to bear up under the operation.

We do not believe in severe pruning at *any* time. If a man has the education of his orchard from the start, it is an utter abomination to leave his trees in such a condition as to require it. If, however, one comes into possession of a much abused orchard, or of a seedling orchard; or, if a single tree is to be changed, or an old tree is to be headed back for health's sake, then it may be necessary to prune with a free hand. But in such cases, the change should not be attempted in one season, but divided between two.

There is, we suppose, a critical time in which pruning will injure the tree. It is after the sap is in full motion, the vegetable system impleted, *but before the pores and sap passages have acquired a contractile power*. Thus, if a grape is pruned when the buds begin to swell, the wood does not contract, and the vine bleeds to excess. But, if pruned after the leaves are as large as the palm of the hand, no injury ensues from cutting, for now the sap passages contract and close speedily.

Thus, if a tree be handled before or after this period, it does not suffer; but if pruned *at this critical state of the wood*, it will bleed, the stump part will become diseased, probably from the relaxed state of the woody tissue, and canker will ensue — a word indicating, we presume, simply a state of decay, covered by or accompanied with, some sort of fungus-growth.

Pruning, before this critical time, is sometimes the most convenient. But if it be a question, at which of the two periods is the tree in a state to suffer the least, and to recover the soonest, we say, *after it is in full leaf and well a-growing*, viz: the last of May and the first of June. The wood has then a contractile force, does not bleed; the tree is making new wood with great energy, and has therefore a full supply of organizable matter with which promptly to heal the wound.

Mr. O. V. Hill, thus speaks in the Boston Cultivator:

"Fruit growers at the present day, are generally of the opinion, that the proper time for pruning is the last of May or early in June, when the tree is in full leaf and in a vigorous, growing state. This, on many accounts, appears to be the most suitable season, as the wounds heal much more rapidly, the tree throws out less suckers, canker is avoided and the sap circulates freely to every part of the tree; but there are some objections to pruning in the early part of summer, which I do not recollect to have seen noticed. Any one who is familiar with vegetable physiology is aware that there is a new layer of wood and a new layer of bark deposited every year, and that in June this process is in active operation: the newly forming wood and bark are then consequently in a tender and imperfect state, and very susceptible to injury. Standing in the forks of the branches as it is sometimes necessary to do in pruning, will frequently separate the bark and wood, especially in young trees at this season. In grafting late in the season, this is frequently the case; sometimes where the ladder is placed against a branch it will remove the bark; and in sawing, unless the saw runs very clear, and the teeth are fine, the same results will follow; if pruning is done in June, it should be performed with the greatest caution."

The New York Farmer and Mechanic, commenting on the above, says:

"The best time for pruning apple trees, is as yet, we believe, undetermined, by the most experienced orchardists, but we are of opinion that the early part of June is, for reasons above given by Mr. Hill, to be preferred. The objection arising from the fear of injuring the bark of the tree can easily be obviated by having the operator use *moccasins* instead of shoes, and surrounding the upper round of the ladder with straw or flannel."

Downing says:

"We should especially avoid pruning at that period in spring when the buds are swelling, and the sap is in full flow, as the loss of sap by bleeding is very injurious to most trees, and, in some, brings on a serious and incurable canker in the limbs.

"There are advantages and disadvantages attending all seasons of pruning, but our own experience has led us to believe that, practically, *a fortnight before midsummer is by far the best season, on the whole, for pruning in the northern and middle States.* Wounds made at this season heal over freely and rapidly; it is the most favorable time to judge of the shape and balance of the head, and to see at a glance which branches require removal; and all the stock of organizable matter in the tree is directed to the branches that remain."

Our season is so much earlier than that of New York, that early June will be equivalent to the time specified by Downing. We have now fortified the opinion which we heretofore expressed, by good authority, and by what seems to us, good reasons. As it is, however, with some, yet a debated question, we shall carefully insert the experience of any man for or against our position.

PEACH, NECTARINES, AND SILK---Questions.

I wish some of the readers to let me know where I can obtain some of the Apricot peach or Peach apricot; and also some of the Elruge nectarine?

Will some person, competent to the task, give us some information with regard to the silk culture and the best plan for the propagation of the morus multicaulis, what cocoons are worth per pound, &c. JOHN P. ALLEN.

Spiceland, Ia., 5th mo. 16th.

The enquiries touching cocoons, we leave to our friend McHannan, Ohio, who will, doubtless, send back a reply as smooth as silk.

There is some difference between the *peach apricot*, and the *apricot peach;* as much as there is between horse sorrel, and a sorrel horse.

The Peach Apricot, is one of the largest (Kenrick, and Downing say, *the* largest and best) of all apricots, and of high rank, for other excellencies. It may be had in Cincinnati. We do not remember to have seen it in any private collections in this region.

The Apricot Peach, (or Yellow Admirable) is a French variety, and not of sufficient merit to supercede, or to take place among, the many noble varieties originated in the United States. It is a late peach, and requires a long and warm season to perfect its fruit.

The Elruge Nectarine, is one of the very best, and may be had of any tolerably good nurserymen in our large towns.

There has been so little demand for the finer peaches, apricots, nectarines, &c., that nurserymen in the country have had no encouragement to propagate a stock of them. With suitable precautions *buds* may be transmitted during the summer to considerable distances; and they will retain their vitality for a week or ten days. When the whips are cut, let the leaves be removed, dip the cut end in wax, or some substance that will seal closely; or let them be stuck in a potato; wrap the whole in moist cloth, and keep them *cool* and in the *dark*. We have brought them from Cincinnati in grass, and kept them for ten days without difficulty or damage.

AN EDITOR'S FRIEND.

Friend Beecher: —I have, by considerable exertion, obtained ten subscribers to the Western Farmer and Gardener; and I believe there is not a neighborhood in the State where there is more opposition to improvement, in the agricultural line, than there is in this; and I believe that if some person of influence in every settlement, would take it upon themselves to get subscribers to the Farmer and Gardener that it would reach the fireside and cottage door of nearly every farmer in the State of Indiana and the bordering States. I am a poor man, owning but one-third of an acre of land in the world, and I have but little influence, situated in a settlement opposed to improvement and I have obtained ten subscribers. What is to hinder the paper from obtaining an extensive circulation by the aid of a few friends of the cause; there can be no loss, but a considerable gain, by paying fifty cents for the Farmer and Gardener. I would not be without it for one dollar, and I would have subscribed for it before this, had it not been for my embarrassed situation.

A few such friends *would* put a paper in almost every farm-house. In order to place our paper within the reach of the poorest, we have, in some sort, tied our own hands; *we cannot afford to pay agents.* Of course, our help must come from those who desire to see the improvement of their neighborhood. The bulk of our subscribers have been procured by the individual exertions of a few. In one case, a gentleman, not himself a farmer, sent three successive letters full of names and money, and apologizes, after all, for *troubling* us! The large list which we have in Vigo county, Ia., we owe to the kindness of two or three men. Several post-masters have exhibited great public spirit, if spreading intelligent papers may be considered as such. All the subscribers which we have in the interior of Ohio, and the number increases, were the fruit of individual effort. Is there any method by which, with so little time and labor, so much information may be distributed among the mass of society?

We would not be understood as wishing such efforts to be confined to the Western Farmer and Gardener. We are glad to see other papers circulating all around us. If our farmers find the

Prairie Farmer, or Bateham's Cultivator, or the Albany Cultivator, better suited to their wants, they should, by all means, find a birth for them. The grand thing in which the country is interested, is, not the circulation of *any one paper*, but the diffusion of sound information, the growth of a disposition to read and think among laboring men. Let every friend of improvement circulate just such papers as will effect these objects, without regard to publishers' or editors' private interest.

CUTTING WHEAT EARLY.

PARKE COUNTY, Ia., May 9, 1846.

Sir:—I noticed an account of some experiments in early harvesting wheat, by a correspondent in a number of your paper, (and have twice looked over the index to get his name, but have not found it.) I have been cutting my wheat a little earlier than my neighbors for several years, and, I think, to advantage; but have not ventured to cut as green as recommended by several agriculturists. My object, however, in addressing you, at this time, is, to ascertain from your correspondent, whether he binds immediately after cutting, or lets it lie in the swath, and if so, how long. Perhaps you can give the necessary information.

N.

Early cutting, is the practice of the best wheat-raisers, whether the grain is needed for flour or for seed. The berry fills out after it is cut, and the wheat is plump and heavy. Dead-ripe seed KEEP better than those that are only just ripe; but seed simply ripe will *germinate sooner*, and *stronger*, than dead-ripe seed. Where one desires to keep seed for long voyages, or for years, it should ripen thoroughly. Where it is to be kept but for a few months—from summer till spring, or from spring until autumn—seeds are even better by being gathered full early.

Nothing is, probably, added to the nutritious property of seeds in the last stage of ripening. The changes which they then undergo are those *that will preserve their vitality.*

To cut, or gather before the final elaboration of carbon, by which they are to be preserved, takes from the seed, then, nothing of its richness,—nothing of its weight,—nothing but the quality of long-keeping for planting purposes.

The grain is to be bound up precisely as in later harvesting; put in shocks, and left to sun, for several days, according to the judgment of the farmer, before the caps are put on. But we wish some sixty-three-pound-wheat farmers, would tell us their practice about harvesting.

THE ALOE.—P. B. Tyler, Esq., of the U. S. Branch mint at New Orleans, has an Aloe in his splendid garden, which he planted five years ago. The Aloe was one year old when he purchased.—It is now twenty-eight feet high, and growing rapidly. In three or four weeks it is expected to blossom. If it does, it will entirely do away with the supposition that the Aloe bloomed but once in a century.—*Exchange Paper.*

The *Aloe* is not the proper name for the plant here described, although it is extensively applied to it, both in books and conversation. It is the Agave; the Aloe belongs not only to a different genus, but to a different order. The Aloe flowers once a year; the Agave but once in its life; but as the root pushes offsets constantly, which, in turn, bloom, the plant is continued in flower from time to time.

The vulgar idea, that the Agave blooms but once in a hundred years is true in one sense; since it dies after blooming; but if it be meant that it requires a hundred years before it is prepared to bloom, it is a notion egregiously false. In hot climates and a fitting soil it matures and blooms in ten years. The above account gives but *six years*, which is less than we ever heard of, but not at all improbable.

In a colder climate, or with poor cultivation, its period of blooming extends from forty to seventy years; and it is probable, that it may be so wretchedly handled as to wait a hundred years before blooming; of this last fact, however, we cannot speak from experience.

NATIVE WOOD AND HOME WORK.—We were never apprized of the extreme beauties of the black walnut, for cabinet ware, until recently. Mr. Parmelee has about completed a piano, veneered with black walnut, and Mr. Donnelan has two bureaus of the same, which struck us as equalling the richest mahogany, and altogether surpassing rose-wood. We are pleased to observe a disposition to employ our native ornamental kinds of wood for cabinet-making purposes.

Is it known that the ailanthus (*ailantus glandulosa*) furnishes, when old, a deep red, hard, fine-grained wood, often veined with deep gold-color? It is compact and susceptible of a fine polish and has a satin-like luster. It grows well on very poor soils, and with extreme rapidity, and might be profitably employed for domestic manufactures.

THE REVENUES OF THE MIND.—The ear and the eye are the mind's receivers: but the tongue is only busied in expending the treasure received. If, therefore, the revenues of the mind be uttered as fast or faster than they are received, it cannot be but that the mind must needs be bare, and can never lay up for purchase. But if the receivers take in still, with no utterence, the mind may soon grow a burden to itself, and unprofitable to others. I will not lay up too much, and utter nothing, lest I be covetous: nor spend much, and store up little, lest I be prodigal and poor.—*Bishop Hall.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

A CHAPTER OF QUESTIONS.

There are some questions, I would be glad if you, or some of your correspondents would answer, provided I can ask them in an intelligent manner.

I would like to hear, from some of you, of the best time and the best manner for sowing wheat. Also, I should like to have a radical cure pointed out for that troublesome and stubborn disease in horses the swiney. Also, I would be glad to know the best way to prevent fruit trees from sprouting (or putting out suckers) around the root; and whether such sprouting is considered as seriously injurious to them or not?

As I have always thought the cedar a beautiful and highly ornamental tree, and as they are scarce and hard to get, in our part of the country, I would be glad to hear something from you with respect to the propagation of them from the seed or berry, viz: if the tree is of different sexes; and if the presence of both sexes is necessary to produce seed that will vevetate, and what process, if any, is necessary to planting?

Bloomington, Ia., May, 1846. THOS. KELSEY.

What is the best Green Manure? — Which will enrich the soil the most when turned under at the proper time; red clover, timothy, or oats?

Will you tell us where the subsoil plow is made; the price, &c. W. M. A.

Clover is by far the best; it takes less from the soil, and more from the atmosphere, than any other plant used for turning under. The subsoil plow may be had at Cincinnati, of Eli & Campbell, Lower Market Street, for *ten dollars*, and at this place for the same price, with the addition of carriage, of A. G. Willard. — ED.

MONROE COUNTY, Ia., May 4, '46.

Barley, Peas, &c. — I have become a reader of your paper, namely: the Farmer and Gardener. In the seventh number, vol. 2, there appeared an article entitled, "Culture of Spring Grain." I have read this article with some interest; particularly that on barley. The kind of barley to which I allude is the six-rowed, naked barley. I esteem it one of the best and wholesomest kinds of grains, and as I think it would be advantageous to this country generally, the land being somewhat hilly, I would be very glad to obtain seed of this kind of grain. Could any of your readers furnish me with a small portion of seed?

Has the editor any communication with Mr. Spinner of Herkimer, in whose hand this kind of barley is supposed to be? Can any of the readers of the Farmer and Gardener inform the writer where seed may be had; and what is the price? This six-rowed, naked barley is valuable on many accounts. It is allowed to be the heaviest and the most productive of meal of any other; it is very handy for kitchen business, as it needs no milling; it also answers all the purposes of rice or pearl barley. MARTIN GAMBLE.

[We have no access to Mr. Spinner; we do not suppose that this barley can be had in the west. If any, however, have it, we will thank them to let us know.]

Where could the Canada field peas be had, for seed, and what is the price? Is there any to be had about Indianapolis? [None here; nor do we think they can be had short of New York. Next year, a good stock of seeds will be kept in this place.]

I would mention to the editors of the Farmer and Gardener the propriety of printing a cover on their publication; it would keep it much cleaner, and the work ought to be bound; it is a pity to have it sullied.

[We will cheerfully print a cover, when enough advertising is offered to pay the expense. It is a source of profit to such agricultural papers as have a large run of advertising custom.]

CONDENSED CORRESPONDENCE.

SCAFFOLD PRAIRIE, April 27, '46.

Though not a practical farmer, I think I have derived benefit enough from your first volume to pay well the expense of it. I am particularly gratified that you have determined to devote a portion of your paper to the subject of education. This is as it should be. The whole business of correct agriculture is a matter of science; and every science is more readily pursued by a well educated community. The treatment of the garden, the orchard, the rearing of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, the raising of fine crops of wheat, corn, &c., all are matters of education. Intimately connected with those subjects is the education of the farmer's family — physical and intellectual. His farm will not be half the honor to him, if cultivated by ignorant boys, nor his butter and cheese half so sweet if made by uneducated daughters. Why should we have repeated essays on the best method of raising pigs and calves, and nothing on the best way of *raising* boys and girls? The expression "raising a family," means a great deal; there is food, dress, body, and mind, to be seen to.

There is a beautiful analogy between the formation of the leaves of healthy trees and the action and duties of the lungs of animals—both seem intended to vitalize the circulating fluid — the leaves elaborate, digest, or fit for deposit on the woody fibre, the sap which rises through the interior of the tree in a crude state. They do more; they absorb water and carbonic acid from the atmosphere, retaining the carbon which the tree needs, and throwing back the oxygen which it does not need, to purify the atmosphere and render it more suitable for the support of animal life.

The lungs elaborate, disgest, or fit for deposite in the various tissues of the body, the blood, which, formed from the food we take, is yet in need of their vitalizing influence. The lungs absorb oxygen, and throw off to the atmosphere, carbonic acid, which the leaves may have, if they wish, in return for their gift of oxygen — a beautiful and wonderful play of affinities. Now will the tree flourish and thrive if you strip it of half its leaves, or if you shut from it the light and air? Will it ripen its fruit or increase in beauty and stature? The common observer is ready to say, it will be stinted and sickly, without light and air; the leaves become pale and deathlike. Without healthy leaves the tree loses its vigor.

But what relation have these remarks about trees and sap and lungs and blood, to the subject

of education? Well, then, I once knew a person who imagined she was not made right. There was too much room about the chest; the ribs were perpetually upheaving and falling; the muscles which move them were constantly contracting and relaxing in provoking alternation; there was no such thing as keeping a pretty and genteel form under such circumstances. She was driven to the necessity of enclosing these unruly ribs in a strong bandage; (people never wear tight garments in this enlightened age.) The cure was effected—Nature's error corrected—all was pretty nearly right. True, exercise produced some shortness of breath, but then, exercise could be dispensed with. It *was* dispensed with. Soon the open sunlight and the breath of heaven were too much for the pale, sickly invalid to bear; and, shortly, the experiment ended by dispensing with breathing altogether. A. G. Skinner.

Mount Pleasant, near Versailles,
Ripley County, Ia., May 4, '46

Sirs:—I shall make no apology for troubling you with a few lines at the present. In No. 7, vol. 2, you seem to think that it will be of essential advantage to young farmers to learn to express their thoughts upon paper, and that a trial for a certain length of time will prove the fact. Then, in the first place, I have perused the first volume and eight numbers of the second volume of the Farmer and Gardener, and I can say without fear of successful contradiction, that no business man can spend the time it takes to read them to better advantage. The pertinent and well-timed hints they contain, are of incalculable advantage to the farming community. For example, in vol. 1, p. 10, "Acclimating a Plow." Who is there amongst us but can apply some of these hints to himself; for my part I plead guilty to several of them; and although they seemed a little saucy at first, I have the consolation to believe I reaped advantage from their—stripes. And on page 50, vol. 2, "Book Farming and a Portrait." I am sorry to say that these remarks are but too true. They are strikingly verified in my own neighborhood; and, as before, I plead guilty in part, though I think I am improving some, yet I am not opposed to book-farming: on the contrary, I recommend it. But on page 103, vol. 2, C. F. M. would seem to discourage these hints for fear of trampling on the established customs of our fathers. With due reverence for these customs, I would say, if they contain errors, they should be exposed for the benefit of the rising generation, and if our reverend sires will not learn wisdom, they must be given over to a hardness of heart.

Reformation in agricultural matters is highly necessary to the farming community. But how that reformation must be brought about, I leave you to say. All I have to say is, do not desist from these hints, occasionally. I can bare them for the sake of the good they impart. E. S.

Bristol, Ill., May 11, 1846.

Please state the price of the first five volumes, bound and unbound. Spring and fall grain with us look finely. We have had a long spell of rainy weather, and farmers are backward about their corn; but few having planted as yet. Our peach trees were full of blossoms, but they have nearly all dropped off, owing to very hard, dry, freezes, late in the winter. We have had a long, cold storm from the north-east. A few mornings since we noticed, that many of the leaves on our pear trees were blighted, and turned quite black, apparently by frost, but could not perceive its effects on anything else. Could it have been caused by the north wind? G. F. R.

One dollar a volume for the (Cincinnati) Western Farmer and Gardener back volumes, bound. For the last volume of the Indiana Farmer and Gardener, unbound, seventy-five cents; one dollar bound.

In England, the wind is regarded as prejudicial to vegetation. But in the west we have never known any, except a mechanically injurious effect.

You speak of peach trees; to what extent have they been winter-killed? We heard that there was a general destruction of them through central and northern Illinois.—*Ed.*

Kalamazoo, Michigan, April 25, 1846.

The prospect of fruit is good with us. Wheat looks well; do not hear of any injury from fly or worm; vegetation is early; weather favorable, and our farmers are in good cheer, and will put in for a large surplus of grain.

Yours, respectfully, Wm. S. Booth.

COLOR OF APPLES.

Greencastle, May 7, 1846.

[We do not remember to have read before, any such observations as are contained in the following article. They are both curious and important.]

In all of my horticultural reading, I do not think I have ever seen anything said on the relative color of the twig; and that of the ripe apple of the same tree, and for the sake of the curious, I will here remark, that nine times out of ten the color of an apple may be determined by the twig of the tree in the absence of its fruit.

To set this subject before the readers, we will say there shall be but two colors in apples; one red, and one yellow: all those that are striped, dashed, spashed, marbled, washed, or blushed, shall be called red; and those that are green, white, or yellow, without red, shall be called yellow.

The examiner will now take the annual shoot of last year's growth, after it has ripened, and with a sharp knife split or rather shave off the outer covering of the bark, and gradually approach the inner bark, and if the tree bears red apples, the inner coat of the dark outer covering will be red. If this coloring matter be of dingy or sooty red, the apple will, most probably, be yellow with a forced blush; but if the forced blush is bright, the red in the twig will also be cleared. And, on the contrary, if the bark of the twig shows no sign of red, we may readily predict that the apple of such tree will be yellow, white, or green. If the inner coat of the bark be very yellow, the apple will be yellow-fleshed; if pale yellow, the flesh of the apple will be yellowish-green; if green, the flesh of the apple will be white.

The foregoing colors are somewhat changed by the frosts of winter, but, in a general way, hold good.

Perhaps Mr. Downing, ere this, has made the foregoing discovery, and to a much greater extent; if he has, this will only go to "fortify his opinion" with additional facts; for which I am partly indebted to Mr. Jacob Smith, of Montgomery county, Indiana. REUBEN RAGAN.

The allusion, in this last paragraph, is to Mr. Downing's mention of the Fire Blight. The exposition of its cause, was made to the Indiana Horticultural society nearly eight months or a year before Mr. Downing's book appeared; and was published in Hovey's Magazine, Boston, at least, four months before the "Fruit and Fruit Trees of America" appeared. Yet, Mr. D., without intimating these facts, speaks of the discovery as *his own;* and only, in a note, alludes to the existence of a detailed account of it, before his book saw the light; and even then, he speaks of it as something *subsequent* to his discoveries. Mr. Ragan, has, in this instance, just cause to complain of Mr. Downing's disingenuousness. — *Ed.*

PEAR TREES IN INDIANA.

BELVILLE, IA., May 25.

I had contemplated some time since, to furnish a communication for your paper, but having been deprived of its reading, this season, I feel like a school-boy who has been detained from school the last season, and is consequently behind his class; and what I may say will be much at random. About the first of April, whilst on the border of an adjoining State, I chanced to get hold of a No. of the Western Farmer and Gardener, and the first thing that attracted my attention was an article in reference to pear-trees, and at the time I thought it needed a passing reply; and since you have adopted the principle of reporting failures as well as successful experiments, it seems to me equally important to test, or call in question, anything that is calculated to mislead the public mind.

The article which I allude to, was signed "Tyro." The very signatnre being fictitious, is exceptionable; but still there was an emphatic sentence couched in the article, if my memory serves me right, which says: "*Indiana is an unsuitable climate for pear trees.*" And here I must acknowledge that my youth and inexperience forbid my calling in question the views of older and wiser heads, but I beg leave to dissent from Mr. Tyro or call upon him to exemplify more fully. There is much plausibility in some of his remarks, but the assertion is too broad. His assertion will probably apply to many varieties that have been introduced into our country; for here, in the interior of our State, we have over one hundred varieties of the pear, many of them of the most celebrated kinds on the globe, and many of them introduced from foreign climes, with the fear that they would not probably succeed in our climate. But the principle I contend for is, whether, through the experience and sagacity of our horticulturists, we may not make a sufficient selection that will be adapted to our climate. Here, then, is a duty incumbent on every lover of fine fruits; and shall we not endeavor to overcome such difficulties instead of discouraging and paralysing the efforts of those who feel disposed to test fully the resources of our country?

I well recollect when all of our peach trees were cut off by the winter of '31 and '32. We then had many Tyros, who contended that it was useless to plant peach trees which would be liable to be destroyed by the winters probably as soon as they would be old enough to bear. But have not the labors of those who have planted peach trees, been bountifully rewarded since then? But still our friend Tyro may contend that he refers to only certain kinds of the pear. If so, why not apply the same remark to the apple, and indeed, to nearly every kind of fruit trees cultivated in our country; for all who have been acquainted with the cultivation of fruit trees, have witnessed frequent losses by the effects of our rigorous winters, of many of our most popular kinds of apples; for instance, the Red Baldwin, Golden Russet, Rawle's Janet, Vandeveer Pippin, Green and Yellow Newtown Pippins, and many more that might be enumerated. But shall we cease to cultivate these fruits? Let those who partake of their fruits from year to year answer the question.

Indiana not a suitable climate for pear trees!!! — Will Mr. Tyro take a walk with me when my pears ripen through my young pear orchard, or will he take a ride with us to the Mammoth Pear Tree, which stands twelve miles north-east of Vincennes, in this state, and there behold a tree fifty years old, whose trunk is three feet in diameter, and top spreading over a space of ground sixty-nine feet in diameter, and producing in a single season one hundred and forty bushels of fruit.

The destruction of the past winter has not been near as fatal to fruit trees as we had anticipated. My pear trees in the orchard are not any of them injured; the peach trees, especially many of the newly introduced cultivated varieties, I thought in the spring, were killed; but they are pretty well recovered from the shock, and many of them are holding their fruit and I think it will ripen. The buds of the trees were much injured by the winter, consequently the fruit is shedding off more than usual. I think that there will be but one tree lost in my whole orchard, and that an apple tree. But there was some damage done in my nursery, and I cannot determine which have suffered most, the seedlings or grafted scions.

The principal cause of the loss in the nursery, was owing to too high a state of cultivation.

Z. S. RAGAN.

AN ITEM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

I observed this morning (5 mo. 5th, 1846) that the cucumber bug had made its appearance for the first time this season, so far as I have seen; and for want of cucumber plants in my garden, which are not yet up,) they have commenced their depredations upon what was once used as an ornamental vine, but proves to be also a troublesome weed, the *single-seeded cucumber* (Sicyos angulata.)

Hundreds of these plants had sprung up, and put forth from one to five true leaves; on the under side of the seminal leaves of every one exposed to the sun, were found from one to six bugs, or extensive marks of their feeding. In the shade, not one of all the plants examined, (perhaps one or

two hundred) had this insect on it; nor was there any evidence that the bugs had molested a single leaf.

The sicyos belongs to the same natural family as the cucumber. The same day I found a great number of the striped bugs on my own and my neighbors' quince trees, which were in full bloom; and perceiving a multitude of petals to be cut into holes, and no other insects at hand to charge with the depredation, I watched them closely for about twenty minutes, and then caught one of them in the very act of feasting upon a petal. The quince is not allied to the cucurbitaceous plants.

J. T. P.

EVERGREENS, April 26, 1846.

Messrs. Editors: — As I am one of your oldest and a constant subscriber of the Farmer and Gardener, and as you frequently solicit communications from your subscribers, I have concluded to try my hand, although a very unskillful one, and hope you will feel at full liberty to reject such parts, or all, from your columns as you deem unprofitable.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

First and foremost; I am proud to see my little favorite, the Farmer and Gardener, constantly improving; it reminds me of our Ohio steamboats. If there could be any plan devised to induce the community to take, and read it and other similar periodicals, I feel well assured, that improvements in agriculture and horticulture would keep pace with these floating palaces. But how is that to be accomplished? A hard question, I'll admit. I will suggest a plan; although impracticable, because the people will not study their best interests. It would be well, if our State legislators would appropriate a small portion of the revenue to be expended in the purchase of agricultural libraries, and to encourage the formation of farmers' clubs in every neighborhood, and agricultural societies in every county; the clubs to hold frequent meetings for discussion, and, as often as possible, to have some competent person, either of their own body or otherwise, to deliver an address; and that of a very plain, practical, character, pertaining to agriculture, horticulture, &c.; read and exchange agricultural papers; try experiments, and test them well before coming to conclusions. Let every member begin with his children as soon as they can use the hoe; assign each of them (girls as well as boys) a small lot of ground for a fruit and flower garden; give to each a vine and other small fruits to plant; also numerous flowers and vegetables; see that they have the necessary implements for preparing ground and planting, cultivating, &c. If they need any instructions, give it cheerfully, and encourage them; help them a little occasionally; tell them to search the back numbers of the Farmer and Gardener, and they will find directions for cultivating every plant in their gardens. This information will be eagerly sought for, each wishing to excel. As they grow larger, add to their grounds; let them grow melons, onions, potatoes, &c. for themselves; induce them to purchase books on agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, &c., with a part of the proceeds of their labor. Let this be universally done, and my word for it, the next generation will be an universal nation of good farmers, gardeners, horticulturists, florists, and a much better and happier people than the present.

LIST OF APPLES.

I observe that one of your correspondents, Mr. Brady, wishes some one to give advice about selecting fruit trees for planting an orchard. As the invitation appears to be of a general character, and as inquiries, too frequently, go unanswered, I will take the liberty to recommend the following list of apples; judging from the fact that a list of pears, plums, cherries &c., recently appeared in the Farmer, that apples are what he wants:

For June — Southern Queen, Carolina May, Bracken Early, and Early Queen.

For July — Pound Royal, Early Chandler, Sugar Sweet.

For August — Summer Seek-no-further, Benoni, Summer Queen.

For September — Long Pearmain, Pumpkin Sweet, Cooper.

For October — Honey-greening, Eighteen-ounce Pippin, Poppy-greening.

For November — Mammoth, Fall Pippin, Lancaster Lady-finger.

For December — Blackheart, Blue Pearmain, Bowen's Imperial Reeflet.

For January — Golden Russet, Big Hill, Windower.

For February — Pryor's Red, Carolina Red, Baldwin Queening, London Pippin, Esopus Spitzenburg, Hubbardston Nonesuch, Gibbs' Seedling.

For March — Roxbury Russet, Yellow Newtown Pippin, Green Newtown Pippin,.

For April — Golden Harvey, American Marygold, Red Cedar.

For May — Reinette French, Winter Queen, Lansingburg.

Winter Apples, for June — Crawford's Keeper, Rolen's Keeper, Virginia Keeper.

The above selections are made from more than 200 sorts of very choice apples growing on my farm. And, with few exceptions, are very productive; large, handsome, and decidedly first-rate.

As I am a dear lover of a first-rate apple, and have lived in a neighborhood where apples are extensively grown for export, for thirty years; have navigated our western rivers many years, and observed every apple and apple-market that came in my way, worthy of note, I make some pretensions to know what sorts are most desirable.

There are many other very desirable sorts cultivated in this neighborhood; but no better than the above, all things considered. Mr. Brady, of course, will consult his own interests and convenience, and plant a large or small proportion of early apples, as he may deem best. Sorts that mature *very* early, and those that keep till spring, generally sell best.

The Gillet's Seedling, originated in this township, (Rome) and is frequently called Rome Beauty; is a very vigorous grower; a very young, constant, and profuse bearer, and will, perhaps, pay better than any other sort, though not equal to many other varieties in point of flavor.

You have been exceedingly fortunate, in procuring the services of men so eminently qualified to write for an agricultural paper. I feel quite

anxious, for one, and no doubt many others do, to know their names.

Yours, H. N. Gillett.

Quaker Bottom, L. C., Ohio.

We leave our correspondents to their own taste, in most matters, furnishing, however, just such help, in our power, as they may request. We should be glad to have each sign his full name. But where they prefer not to do it, we acquiesce. If, however, any one asks the author of any particular piece, we cheerfully, by letter, will furnish it if we know it ourselves; that he may hold such correspondence with him as they may desire.

We hope our Ohio friend will not be like some of his trees — an every other year bearer; — now that his pen is sharpened, we should be glad to hear often. We have many readers in Ohio; and some valuable correspondents, whose number, we devoutly hope, may be increased, and of the full-blooded, *short-horned*, deep milking breeds — *Ed.*

THE BITTER-ROT.

Logansport, May 6, 1846.

Mr. Editor: — In your last number, Gustavus asks a number of questions about the bitter-rot. I will say to him that, my father, like him, had an orchard almost rendered useless by it; more particularly, about twenty of the old-fashioned Vandeveer apple. He had almost made up his mind to destroy them without consulting the priest. He believed there was a cause, and being a man of close observation, thought he discovered that cause. I being at that time a boy, he called my attention, in the early part of summer, to, perhaps, hundreds of small insects hurdled on the body of the trees, as near as I can remember, a little more than a fourth of an inch long and nearly as wide; the hinder part of them ringed with dark and green color: some with wings nearly expanded; some without the appearance of any. He told me he had watched them often. After they had full wings to fly, they would light on the apple, and remain some time on one spot, and, on close inspection, he discovered that they had made a wound in the skin, and he marked the fruit with strings: in a few days, that spot would turn dark-colored and, finally, would destroy the apple with bitter-rot. We could always, in that spot, find a dark spot in the centre.

Apples with thin skin, are more affected than those of tough, whether seedling or grafted. If it be the depositing of the egg of an insect, it will be contagious; therefore, locality will have some effect. My father believed that was the case, and, to apply a remedy, he had a fence made around the Vandeveer trees, which stood separated from the rest of the orchard, and let the hogs have free access to them during the time the apples were falling, which he supposed would destroy the insect before it got into the ground, and, I think, in two years, the fruit ripened well, and continued to do so, as he ever after made it a point to keep his hogs in his orchard during the season of apple-falling, and he had but little more trouble with bitter-rot.

INJURY BY FROST TO FRUIT TREES.

Our nursery has suffered much — how much I cannot yet tell. Many of the trees still grow; therefore, we hope. Our pears and quinces were also injured, and I cut them all down, except a few which were grafted on apple stocks; they still live. If we were to work on the quince, for stocks, would there be any more hopes of keeping clear of the blight? Can any of the old nurserymen give us their views? I believe many of the peach trees will die; some of the apple orchards have suffered much; what the effect will be, I know not yet. I find that in the low places in my orchard, the trees are killed the most.

Why is it that fruit trees have suffered so much and the Alanthus and the Catalpa are not as much injured as some others?

I am glad you take so much interest in fruit and fruit trees. With me, at least, much information is wanted.

Your friend, D. Embree.

We need more, and more close observations before the cause and cure of the dry or bitter-rot is effectually pronounced. One fact, however, is observable, that varieties which, by bad cultivation or other cause have become enfeebled, and orchards in which the trees have been left to run down, are the most liable to such attacks. On the other hand, vigorous trees, and a high, but not a rank process of cultivation, yields fruit comparatively free from this pest. Has any fruit-raiser any other theory? Have any of our readers any facts on the subject? Do not withhold information because it may seem but a mite.—*Ed.*

FLORICULTURE.

Place for Flower Beds.

It is an every-day observation, that, the position of the leaves and flowers of plants, is more or less determined by the action of solar light; yet I do not remember having seen any evidence that florists have ever availed themselves of this property of the sun's rays, in the disposition of their flower beds. This is the more remarkable, as the difference between a group of flowers advantageously exposed to the sun, and one that is not so, is very striking. If a row of lilacs, running north and south, should be shaded on the west, the blossoms will show all their beauties to the spectator on the east. A walk, therefore, on the west side, would present scarcely a flower to the view of the passenger: on the east, the branches will be found to have curved one under another, like so many arms thrusting themselves forward through every possible cranny, to present a handful of flowers to the bystander. Having a path running north-east from my office, I planted an experimental bed of tricolored violets (pansies) on the north-west side of it. In the progress of the season, as the flowers became developed, they presented their beautiful faces to the morning sun, almost without an exception. I did, indeed, find one, that was not thus exposed to view, but it was entangled among the leaves so that it could not turn its head. If I had planted my flowers on the *south-east* side of the path, I would have had a bed of violets, to-be-sure; but along the walk, nothing

could have been seen, but a patch of undecorated greenness, not half so attractive as a plat of grass.

Making remarks like these to a friend, he exclaimed: "Well! that no doubt is the reason why —— complained that his bed of heart's-ease never had any beauty, while ——'s was so remarkably showy. I never thought of it before. The beds are so situated as to produce exactly this effect."

The reader now has the hint; and if he has not thought of it before," he may make a hundred entertaining applications of it.

Blue Flag and Blue Violet.

The blue flag or snake-lily (I'ris versicólor) does not flower till near the middle of the year; and from the earliest opening of vegetation to this late period, its sword-shaped leaves present a monotonous greenness. Is there any early blooming plant of suitable size, which will thrive beneath its foliage, so as to diversify its appearance? The reader will find our answer in the subjoined statement.

Some flags were planted on the east side of a building, in a loose, gravelly, soil; and they succeeded well. A few roots of the common blue violet (Viola cucullàta) were placed in the same bed, near them; and after they became established, they proved to be very companionable with the irises, springing up early under the protection of these peaceful flags, and thriving remarkably well; their fair flowers peering from beneath and among the long leaves of the iris, where they continued to bloom, until the iris was able to bloom for itself. The roots of the two plants became perfectly entangled, and the violets crowded close up to the irises as if there was something very congenial in the proximity.

Ants: a Caution.

Having purchased two little shrubs which had been brought several hundred miles, with no earth about their roots, I hoped, by extraordinary pains, to preserve their vitality; but, one of the means resorted to for this purpose, had like to have proved to be the death of both of them; and in a way I did not anticipate. After very carefully planting the shrubs, I placed a box over them to prevent undue evaporation. There I intended to leave it, (as I believed, a perfect security against all molestation,) until the plants should show signs of vegetation. But casually moving the box a few days afterwards, I was startled to see the whole surface of the earth beneath, perfectly riddled from one end of the little bed to the other, with ant-holes. A colony of ants had found my box so well suited to their taste, in affording a spacious canopy to their operations, that they forthwith commenced a settlement beneath it, and had, at the time of my unexpected visit to them, so completely detached the earth from the roots of my plants, that they might almost as well have been lying on the top of the ground. I took up my trees and gave them a new location; and the ants another. J. T. P.

FRUIT IN RIPLEY COUNTY, ENQUIRIES, ETC.

The past week has been very wet, and has kept the farmers from plowing; so we have very little, if any, corn planted as yet. Our wheat looks very fine at present; meadows also look well. Our prospects, this year, for apples, is good, though unfortunately, the most of our orchards are seedlings. There will be some peaches on some trees, though they were mostly winter-killed; yet, there is one of my neighbors whose peach trees will be full enough for safe bearing. The location of his orchard does not differ materially from my own. As for cherries, we have none that I can call so. Although every farmer has some of the black Morello growing on his place, yet they do not perfect their fruit, from some cause. I have thought they had degenerated so much from the original, was one cause; but on the Ohio river, and in Kentucky, they perfect their fruit; or perhaps our soil did not suit them, it being such soil as is common to beach land with blue clay subsoil. We have some cultivated kinds amongst us, but they have not come into bearing yet. Our plums are in the same situation. Pear trees are (all that are living,) of the common kinds. The blight seems to take them as soon as they come into bearing, and, sometimes, before. There are but few of the grafted kinds in the country, with one or two exceptions. The grape fever seems to be getting up in some parts of our county; and, by the way, I will ask you if it is prudent to trim off the sprouts or shoots that start at or near the ground and for some distance up the vines of grapes. I have some vines in my garden that are sending out a good many sprouts as mentioned above.

Speaking of sprouts, reminds me of the blackberry and elders, spoken of on page 148, vol. 1, and the remedies. I can here testify to the remedy stated in the Western Farmer and Gardener, (i. e.) to cut them off close to the ground, about the first of May, and again about the first of August, and perhaps the second year there will *some* come up; which treat in like manner; and, my word for it, you will kill them. To plow them up will not do; you cannot kill them in that way. If you wish to destroy them, you must not stir the ground; for, while there is an end of a root remaining in the ground, it will grow; and plowing thus aids their growth. E. Stark.

Versailles, Ripley Co., Ia., May 4.

If the orchards in Ripley county are like ours, before this time our correspondent has found out that the apple crop is not, after all the enormous promise of blossoms, to be a large one. In this region, it will be small, decidedly.

The difficulty with the cherry we have noticed at this place: nor can we assign a reason for it. In the same lot, two contiguous trees will have very different habits. One will ripen, and the other, without any apparent disease in the tree, or insect-cause, will drop its fruit soon after it has set.

There is no danger in rubbing off sprouts from the lower part of the vines; it *ought* to be done, unless you desire to get new wood to take the place of the old, main vines. Whatever pruning the grape vine needs, should be done by anticipation; i. e. the shoots that are to be removed should be rubbed off as soon as the bud pushes out. If, however, it has got the start, and made a long growth, it is better, usually, to wait till the leaf falls, before pruning. In the west, vines do not require the

pruning that is given in the east; they are injured rather than benefitted by it.—*Ed.*

PRESERVATION OF BACON. A FAILURE.

When smoked meat is packed in powdered charcoal or in ashes, all insects are excluded, and the meat retains its flavor; but this mode of preservation is objectionable on account of the ashes and charcoal penetrating the surface sufficiently to prevent their being washed out; and the ashes impart a soapy taste to the exterior of the bacon. In order to retain the "barring-out" properties of the ashes without being incommoded, as just stated, I spread ashes two inches thick over the bottom of a box, large enough to hold a dozen pieces, and laid paper over them; then placed in a stratum of hams, &c., and covered these with paper and a layer of ashes over it; then paper, hams, paper, ashes, &c. till the box was filled. The weather was dry as usual, and the box in a dry place in a back building; yet in the course of a week, I found nearly every piece covered with *mold*. I now exposed them to a hot sun for two days and replaced them as before; they again became covered with mold; and I then abandoned the method as a failure. The ashes were unleached, and of course were more or less hygrometric.

I will fill up this blank in my sheet by adding, that I thrust two or three Red Roman-stem apples six or eight inches deep in a box of bran, where I left them by way of experiment, for, perhaps, two months. When a boy, my comrades taught me to mellow green apples in this way; and these Roman-stems I found mellow enough; they were perfectly rotten. J. T P.

Do the ashes affect the taste so as, when, in cooking, the rind is pared off, to be disagreeable? We have kept hams in ashes, (as long as we could spare them from the *coals*) without perceiving any ill-flavor therefrom. Dry chaff, or sweet, good hay is used, by some, with success, for packing down hams. We know of good farmers who put all their bacon into the hay-loft, and cover it under the mow. The mould which gathers on the surface, is not supposed to injure the interior meat.

The *best*, though not the least troublesome way of preserving hams is, to prepare bags of coarse linen or cotton, for each ham. Enclosed, and tightly tied, in this, let them be hung in a *cool* and *airy* place. The insect cannot there affect them, nor will they acquire an ill flavor. The bags may be boiled out every spring, about soap-making time, in weak lye, spread on the grass to whiten, and be laid away for use again; lasting, with good care, for several years. This is the *Wright* way, as the good lady can testify who showed me how.

Ed.

JUDGING.—The custom of judging whether a man has a soul or no soul, by his disposition in regard to money matters, is not unaptly illustrated by the following: A stuttering man, in great wrath, was rating a neighbor, who had overreached his wife in the sale of a rennet-bag.

"I kn-ow you, you sti-i-ngy dog, you and your fa-a-ther before you— when you was bo-o-rn your fa-a-ther found a so-o-ul would cost a shi-i-lling, and he could get a gi-izzard for a ninepence, and he bo-ought a-a-gi-izzard."

LETTERS OF A COSMOPOLITE---NO. 8.

NEW YORK CITY, April 20, 1846.

Editors Far. and Gard:—So rapid is the course of modern travel, that one can get only half thro' a description of one city, before he finds himself in arrears by two or three more, equally meriting notice; and correspondence must necessarily travel slower than correspondents. Thus, this letter dates, "New York," but its scene and topics are still in and of Washington.

Citizens of the State capitals are probably familiar with the exceedingly elegant "standard weights and measures" given by our national government to each State. They are made at Washington, and are probably the finest specimens of American workmanship to be found. The balances (three sizes) are not yet ready for distribution; so that the sets are yet incomplete; but the specimens I saw at the office exceed in beauty and accuracy, anything I had conceived possible.

An instance or two of the accuracy of the adjustment of these standards and of the instruments used for verification may interest many, though most, I fear, will think that I am spinning a tough yarn. But all I relate *I saw*.

Half bushel measures, and indeed all the measures of capacity, are adjusted by the *weight of water* they will hold. The large balances receive in one pan the measure to be tested, and a counterpoise in the other. Water is then admitted into the measure without spilling a drop, and by the aid of a ground glass cover, it is filled *even full*, and then ought to weigh a fixed amount. Now for the tough part. These balances—the beam at least five feet long, and loaded with over 300 lbs.—were sensibly affected by the *tenth part of a grain* being added, or about the weight of a drop of water! The vibrations of these balances when thus loaded, are perfectly regular; but each takes about *forty-five seconds* for its completion! I have seen balances that would move by the 1000th part of a grain, and less, but they were small and delicate; but to see a massive beam, strong enough to weigh even the pork of Indiana, loaded, too, with over 300 pounds, to see all this mass so delicately suspended as to move by the addition of a tenth of a grain, exceeds all my previous experience.

Next come the standards of length. To common, matter-of-fact persons, the 1000th part of an inch is not a very important matter, even though it were pure gold. But in the refined manipulations of this office, the 60,000th part of an inch is distinctly appreciable, and were there occasion for it, a still less quantity might readily be discerned. And this, too, without the aid of a microscope or any other *optical* magnifier. A thin sheet of blotting paper is so gross a quantity, that this instrument cannot measure its thickness, although its scale for reading is too feet long.

"But," many I know will ask, "what's the use of such extreme accuracy?" Simply this; that after all refinements have been made that are

possible, still there will always be an error, more or less important. And since mechanical perfection is unattainable, the only thing left to aim at, is to come as near to it as *possible*. Anything short of this is unsatisfactory.

The necessity of some uniformity in weights and measures through our wide extended territory has long been felt by all those whose business transactions are affected by want of regularity. For, heretofore, no one knew, not even the county sealers themselves, where or what the standard was by which they inspected and sealed, in virtue of their office. A county officer not long since, was sent from Indiana (Dearborn county, I think) to Cincinnati, to get a standard half-bushel made for the office. I have often laughed at this procedure, for I saw the whole thing. A smith made a copper vessel which he was sure was *large* enough, took it up to the sealer's to compare with a *standard*, viz: a square pine box, much like a small coal box. This they filled with water till it ran over, and then poured what was not spilled in the operation into the new copper measure, and found it too large. But off it went, after a little reducing, to take its place among the farmers. They with one accord rejected it because it was larger by a pint than the measures they already had, and so the *standard* was altered to suit the measures, instead of the opposite.

It is well, therefore, that our general government are so ably executing this important business, so that in two years from now, this nation will possess the most uniform, and widely diffused system of weights and measures in the world.

Fearing that your readers may not coincide with me in mechanical tastes, I will omit a long chapter on the other elegant mechanical works with which Washington abounds, and pass to other topics.

The inequalities of climate in the east and west, have been often spoken of, and they always constitute an interesting topic of writing as well as of conversation when other subjects of mutual interest are wanting. If one wishes to get weary of spring, let him leave Cincinnati and go on to Boston, very slowly; giving five weeks to the trip, and leaving just as peach blossoms appear at the west. This I have done, and though when I left Cincinnati the buds were quite red, and some few full blown; here, at New York, they are just blooming, and what is worse, all along the road one sees nothing but swelling buds and promises of verdure, so that the prospect of beauty so long delayed, gives the feeling that 'twill never come. And now, if my wanderings should continue two weeks longer, "down east," even then I could still write of fruit-buds and opening leaves.

Philadelphia deservedly ranks first as a city of comfort and convenience, among the large cities of our nation. Everything about it seems to indicate that the inhabitants, most of them, work to live, and not live to work, as is the case in this city. The streets are clean, the lamp-glasses are washed every week or two; the side-walks are smooth; the curbings are broad and high, with openings at crossings for the convenience of hand-barrows. The parks and squares are ample, and a plenty of men are kept at hand to roll the walks and prune the trees. Every pleasant afternoon I saw 2000 or more children in these beautiful squares, all gay, sporting in every imaginable way, while (and it looks strange to one accustomed to the vandalism of the west) although no guard was set, or any chain drawn to protect, not one of these children did I ever see trespassing on the *grass*, or mutilating the trees, or doing anything save what they came for—innocent enjoyment and exercise.

Then, too, the night-clocks; public hydrants; omnibusses; watchmen, &c., all indicate a minute attention to affairs of comfort and health, rarely met with in municipal regulations.

Among the sights of this city, no *one* more amply repays the visitor than the Laurel Hill Cemetery, about five miles from the city. Every one has heard of "Old Mortality;" but if one would *see* him and almost hear him tell his tales, he must come to this place. The carving of this group, is not highly wrought; the first feeling is disappointment, as the eye glances over them; but when the attitude, the expression, and the entire unity of design is appreciated, this work is almost fascinating in its homely attractions, for it is perfectly natural.

The grave of Hassler, the late superintendent of the coast survey at Washington, is marked by a singularly unique and appropriate monument. It is a rough pile of granite rocks, thrown together at a venture, with a marble slab leaning against them, bearing the name, &c., together with a messo relievo profile of the deceased, together with the instruments of his office. It looks so careless and so wild, that it is one of the first localities sought by a stranger. Here, too, I found a slab apparently covered with a canvass to protect its white and polished surface from the weather. I reached out my hand to remove it and expose the inscription, when lo, it was a *marble* covering, so wrought in folds and natural drapery as to deceive the careless eye very readily.

All the monuments are white marble; the place is wild and exceedingly picturesque in its location, and but for the fact that it is a cemetery, would be one of the most delightful spots for a lounge or a walk that I ever met with.

Returning, we passed Girard College. So much has been said of this elegant building, that all are familiar with its appearance; no further description is necessary. In the arched cellars of this edifice, there occurs a striking illustration of the stalactite formation in lime-stone caves. The water used in rubbing off so many marble floors, has trickled down, charged with soluble carbonate of lime, and has formed a casing all over some of the bricks of the arches, and in others has commenced stalactite drops, sometimes an inch or more long. This building whether useful or not, every one should be proud of as belonging to America; and as, perhaps, when complete, the most chastely beautiful piece of architecture in the world; and I only wish more such edifices could be built to attest our matured taste as a nation, and our ability to do something but brag and make money.

T. K. B.

AKER.

I had hoped that this spelling would have silently worked its way into favor: at the same time, it is perfectly right to enquire into the reasons of any innovation of existing usages. I suspect, that rightly conducted enquiries in the present in-

stance, will altogether go to sanction the orthography of Dr. Webster. To the very appropriate defence of the editor, (p. 151,) I ask the liberty of adding a few remarks.

To those who object to the unsightliness of the word aker, it is only necessary to say: *keep looking at it*, and it will soon appear a very pretty dissyllable.

To those who object to its adoption on literary grounds, I wish to offer the following considerations:

1. In the earliest ages of Anglo-Saxon literature, no k appears in their writings: c was the only letter possessing the power of k; and this power it had, before and after *all the vowels* and all the consonants, as corn, circe, cende, cuthan, rican, cwythan, clypode, cnapa, folc, drincth, ic, lichamlice.

2. At a later period, we find the Greek kappa, (k) coming in to supply the place of c *before e, i, and its equivalent y only:* hence cying became kying; cetel, kettle; clerces, clerckes; macet, maket; cepe, kepe; word after word following in the train, until we find our present rule established: that c is hard or close before a, o, u; and soft or open before e and i.

3. It is desirable that all rules should be without exception; and that our orthography should, as rapidly as possible, be made to conform to our pronunciation: hence, while the terminal letters re in theatre, centre, nitre, aftre (as Mandeville and others long ago wrote it) sceptre, tigre and many other words are transposed so as to end the words in er we should bring the few remaining words, as acre, into uniformity with a long acknowledged orthoepical law, that e-r spells er and r-e spells re.

4. If, then, we spell aker, a-c-e-r, it is apparent, that according to the rule now universally adopted, we must sound the c as s, and make aser. Now to *avoid* "inconsistency," there is no other alternative left us, but to bring this solitary exception (for aught I can recollect, it is the only exception) under the rule of uniformity, and spell it AKER.

5. It is not the *shape* of the letter, but the *sound* of it that most concerns linguists: hence the recognition of convertible letters; by which g, c, ch, h, q, (according to Wachter, an old writer,) may be represented by k. Thus the word aker, a field, which appears to be known to all the languages of Asia and Europe, both to the dead and living languages, is spelled either with a *c*, a *g*, or a *k*.

6. The peculiar rattling character given to the letter r, in former days, and still retained in England and on some parts of the continent, it appears to me, caused the irregularity in its orthographical connexions; the vowel sometimes standing before it and sometimes after it; hence acer and acre; if this rattling sound should be preserved, I conceive that c in a-c-r-e would be strictly correct; hence, also, to record the sound of *through*, one writer would set it down *thoro*, another *thro*, and sometimes the same writer, both ways; the Anglo-Saxons wrote it *thurh;* the Scotch turn our grass into garse, thirty into thretty, cross into corse, &c.; and we still write i-ron for i-orn, while the vowel is *before* the r, in other teutonic writings.

7. The English language should have a genius of its own, by which all the chaotic contributions of other tongues may be brought into order; every foreigner being *naturalized* and made subservient to the laws. These laws require that the Sanscrit ka, the Irish coll, the Arabic kef, the Greek kappa, the Hebrew caph, Samaritan kaph, Italian coo, (q,) Syriac coph, and the Ethiopic kaf and quaf, should all put on the uniform c, where standing before a, o, and u, and the consonants; and the uniform k before e and i, when close mouthed, and the c, when open mouthed: hence the Greek drops his kappa in climax, cephalic, creosote, &c.* and retains it in kilogram, &c.; the Italian his q in licorice. Dr. Johnson does not admit liquorice at all; nor does Walker!

Thus I have very briefly endeavored to show the importance of our concurring in this spelling. *Analogy demands it.* The interest I feel in the improvement of the English language, induces a pleasure, when I see such straggiers as aker brought into line with its fellows; and I hope it will stand there without feeling at all abashed by editorial hootings; and I hope, furthermore, that our editor will continue to spell aker a-k-e-r, right in the face of the agricultural pressmen, until, on the principle of filing a saw before those whose teeth it sets on edge, they get used to it.

J. T. P.

SUMMERS IN WAYNE COUNTY, INDIANA.

I cannot find by my records, that any of our summer months have less than four rains; or that any of them exceed ten. Fires are sometimes desirable in every month.

1832.

6 mo., fire for a few days. 7 mo., 6th, sowed buckwheat; 28th, ate squashes.

1833.

8 mo., 5th, sowed turnep-seed. Fire during the middle of the month. Frost on the 28th.

1834.

6 mo., 2d, planted potatoes. Fire. 7 mo., 14th, ate new potatoes. 8 mo., 5th, sowed turnep-seed. latter part of the month, fire pleasant.

1835.

6 mo., 21st, fire very agreeable. Last week, hay-harvest. 7 mo. 1st, fire; 14th, harvesting wheat: very favorable for one or two weeks. 8 mo., 21st, frost.

1836.

6 mo., 20th, sowed buckwheat; cut-worms destructive. 7 mo., 7th, hay and rye harvest. 10th, mowed meadow; 14th, wheat-harvest; fine weather for it. 8 mo., 2d, cut oats.

1837.

6 mo., 6th, a storm swept trees, fences, &c. before it; unroofed barns and other buildings, and greatly damaged my sugar-orchard. 12th, hard shower with hail. 19th to 24th, fires desirable. 25th, had every appearance of indian-summer, and next day it rained moderately. On the storm-day, the pea-bugs were busy depositing their eggs on the pea-pods; and on the 2d, the curculio scarifying the plums. 14th, bees swarming. 18th, some "army-worms." 21st, sowed buckwheat. 29th,

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* "*Kant Kum It*" *must have overlooked* KALENDER *in Webster. The word is certainly in the octavo edition, 2 vols.; but kalender is preferred for the very given above, I suppose,* CONSISTENCY *requiring it.*

ate new potatoes. 30th, raspberries ripe. 7 mo., 17th, reaping wheat. 31st, cut meadow and sowed turneps: fine weather. 8 mo., fire needed, part of the month. In 7 mo., cherries ripe, and gone (Morello, Mayduke and Early May.) Apples and pears ripening. 8 mo., water-melons and some peaches ripe. 30th of this month, 90° at noon.

1838.

6 mo., 8th, bees swarming. 11th, aphides (black) migrating in all directions, over porches, walls, posts, &c., as well as over trees and the ground. 23d, violent storm of wind and rain, with thunder. 28th, raspberries ripe. 7 mo., 2d, gathered turnep seed; ate peas. 20th, gathered seed peas. 14th, fine harvesting for wheat; highest noon heat, 96°, lowest, 72°, average 86°. 8 mo., latter part of the month very dusty; on the 30th gathered seed-corn. Highest noon heat, 91°, lowest 73°, medium 84°.

1839.

6 mo., 4th, weeding corn. 7 mo., 3d, harvest men complain of the cold weather. 19th, wheat-harvest. 23d, sowed turnep-seed. 8 mo., 15th, ate first nutmeg-melons.

1840.

6 mo., 1st, strawberries ripening — planted out this spring. 6th, great wind. 15th, hay-harvest. 18th, hail, cutting corn-blades into strings; rain, 4 inches; temp. 83°, 66°, 75°; cedar-bird (Bombycilla carolinensis) in troops about my garden. 7 mo., 6¼ inches of rain fell this month; the temperature 84°, 66°. 77°. 8 mo., 16th, peaches and tomatoes ripe. 18th, nutmegs ripe; temp. 84°, 67°, 77°; rain, 3 + inches.

1841.

6 mo., 1st, locust blossoms shed, and Bishop's Pea in bloom. Sage of last year's sowing, in bloom. 2d, cucumbers destroyed by bugs, except three hills, on which I had sprinkled *oil of worm-seed*. 8th, last planting of cucumbers not disturbed by the bugs. 22d, Tomatoes in bloom; currants fully ripe, and very abundant; catalpa in bloom. 14th, oyster-plant seeded and seedy; cedar birds eating cherries. 21st, wheat 62½ cents per 60 pounds; rain, 2 + inches; temp. 87°, 66°, 79°; 11th and 14th, 62° at 5 o'clock A. M. 7 mo., 8th, 60° at 6 o'clock A. M. Cucumbers ripe; morello cherries ripe. 11th, sharp thunder and lightning, and heavy rain. Since 1823, there have been, perhaps, ten or a dozen buildings in town struck by lightning, and two or three of them burnt to the ground; in the neighboring country, several conflagrations have occurred from that cause, and a number of lives have been lost, of men and cattle. 16th, collected seed-peas; rain 1¼ inch; temp. 98°, 71°, 79°. 8 mo., 12th, 54° at 7 o'clock, A. M.; noon temp., 85°, 68°, 76°. No peaches, this year; wheat, 75 cents — afterward, 93 cents, and then 75 again, which continued to be the price till spring. Oats 16 cents. 19th, rain, 5 inches, nearly.

1842.

6 mo., 21st, morello cherries ripe; currants ripe on the 10th. 21st, peas for cooking. 22d, hay-harvest; temp. 83°, 62°, 74° +; rain, 4 inches. 7 mo., 5th, wheat and rye harvest; many wheat-fields injured by rust; stalks of wheat long, and ears short. 26th, hay, wheat, and rye-harvest ended, and oat-harvest begun: the whole, a fine harvest season. Rain, 5½ inches; temp. 88°, 68°, 78¼°. 8 mo., 3d, Benne plant leaf (Sesamum orientale) affected by *frost*, last night. From 17th to 31st, gloria mundi and fall pippins steadily dropping, night and day; temp. 83°, 67°, 75¼°. The last day of this month was the hottest, and the last day of the previous month was the coldest, in the respective months. Rain, nearly 2 inches. Oats 7 cents a bushel, corn 12½ cents, flour 150 cents a hundred pounds.

1843.

6 mo., 1st, frost; 5th, Whitewater at Richmond very high; undermining saw-mills &c., and carrying off much timber. 13th to 20th, peas and nasturtiums blooming, and currants ripening. Rain 6½ inches; temp. 84°, 59°, 73°. 7 mo., 10th, hay-harvest begun; ergot very common on rye in wheat fields; the wheat also similarly affected; rust common on wheat, as much on dry hill-sides as elsewhere. 17th, thunder, lightning, wind and rain. Wheat harvest began on 14th, and nearly ended on 22d; mostly fine weather; crops good, though affected with rust; rain, 1¾ inches; temp., 88°, 67°, 80° nearly. 8 mo., 17th, hail, of various sizes and shapes; some ¾ of an inch across; apples, &c., in sufficient quantities; peaches few. 23d, naturtiums have surprised us with a second blooming, and second crop of fruit. Wheat 50 cents, oats 10 and 12; meat, 2 to 4 cents.

1844.

6 mo., 2d, incessant lightning and thunder for 12 hours, with rain. 3d, orchard grass in bloom, while spear-grass panicles (Poa pratensis) are brown and ripe. 8th, ribbon-grass and catalpa in bloom; currants, morello cherries,* and some raspberries ripe. 10th, green apple pies, potatoes and peas for table. 16th to 24th, catalpa blossoms falling. 22d, profusion of cherries, apples, and peaches. 26th, raspberries gone. 24th, hay harvest. 27th, hail and strong winds near town. 29th, timothy in bloom, and some harvesting wheat. Oats, 20 cents; corn, 25; wheat 50; hay, 25 cents per 100 pounds. Temp. 82°, 65°, 73°. Rain, 5¼ inches nearly. 7 mo., 3d and 6th, river very high. 8th, cherries gone; boiled corn from garden. 5th, a storm in the evening passed from 1 to 7 miles north of Richmond, unroofing houses, twisting off trees, prostrating a barn, moving a dwelling-house 24 feet, sweeping fences away, and carrying 600 feet. A female killed by lightning, the same evening. 10th, gooseberries ripe. 15th, wheat harvest over, latter part in fine weather; cutting oats. 20th, blackberries ripe; currants chiefly gone: there has been the greatest abundance of them. 26th, river higher by 16 inches than it was in 1843. Rain fell three days in the month to the depth of 2 inches and more, a day; making with other rains, 8¼ inches for the month; the greatest quantity ever yet measured here. Boards, books, clothes &c., became unusually moldy during the month. 30th, early red apple gone; tomatoes ripe; some fit for use two weeks ago. Temp. 86°, 75°, 80°. Two thunder-storms. 8 mo., dog-fennel or Mayweed (Maruta cotula) comparatively rare: many waste places which everywhere abounded with it, scarcely yielding a single plant. As usual, complaints of rust in wheat. Apples abound and peach trees

* *Morello cherries in* TOWN, *did not ripen till the 16th.*

loaded. 20th, Fall Pippin and Gloria Mundi have been dropping off for a month. Rain, 5 inches. Temp. 84°, 63°, 76°.

1845.

6 mo., 3d. Day after day no rain: [see "Springs in Wayne county," for 1845] vegetation suffering. In some grounds, strawberry and cucumber vines &c. dying of the drouth. Cucumber bug very rare. 8th, grass &c. very short; some entirely killed. 10th, currants ripe and ripening. Morello cherries ripening. 12th, a storm this morning broke off limbs and uprooted trees, &c. 21st, no rust on wheat or other small grain. Some wheat fit to cut, but rains prevent. 23d, fine harvest weather for hay and wheat; both short. Wheat shells out very easily: crops good. 27th, second crop of blossoms on my locust in the country. Notwithstanding the protracted drouth, the month did not close till 10¼ inches of rain fell! exceeding the great fall of last year 2 inches! placing this month far foremost of all other months, in this or any other year recorded, for rain. Temp. 89°, 62°, 76°. 7 mo., 15th, clover harvest; some oats cut. 9th, violent thunder-storm and rain. 10th, still gathering ruta baga seed; began last month. 30th, frost at night; rain, 3½ inches; temp. 88°, 66°, 79°. [Second crop of clover generally better than the first, this year.] 8 mo., 10th. In last month and up to the present time, potato bugs (cantharis vittata) on my cucumber vines, and two months back on my ruta baga. The potato bug and C. atrata (black cantharis) unusually common; elder-berries ripe and ripening; snow-balls (Viburnum opulis) very generally blooming the second time. Cloverseed is found to have germinated but sparingly: in some cases, the sowing was a total failure. 21st, Isabella grapes ripe. The borer (Clytus flexuosus) on locust trees. The golden tortoise-beetles numerous on my morning-glories (convolvulus purpurcus) eating holes through the leaves, and making them look as if they had been perforated with small shot. 23d, sharp lightling, with rain. 24th, snow-ball still blooming. 31st, sugar-corn (sweet-corn) gathered for seed; blades and bushes perfectly dry. J. T. P.

SELECTIONS.

THE DISEASES OF THE HORSE.

CONCLUDED.

Corns are said to exist when the posterior part of the foot between the external crust and the bars is unnaturally contracted and becomes inflamed. Corns are the consequence of continued and unnatural pressure. The thorough cure of corns will put the ingenuity of the operator to the trial.

Thrush is the consequence of unnatural pressure on the frog. It is the cause and the effect of contraction, whether it is found in the heels of the fore feet or the hinder ones. It is not difficult to cure when taken in time, but when neglected it often becomes a very serious matter.

Canker is the consequence of thrush, or, indeed, of almost every disease of the foot. It is attended by a greater or less separation of horn, which sometimes leaves the whole of the sole bare. This, also, like the diseases of the foot generally, is difficult of cure.

Few things are more neglected, and yet of greater importance to the comfort and durability of the horse, than a proper system of *shoeing*. It is necessary that the foot should be defended from the wear and tear of the roads, but that very defence too often entails on the animal a degree of injury and suffering scarcely credible. The shoe is fixed to the foot, and often interferes with and limits the beautiful expansibility of that organ, and thus causes much unnecessary concussion and mischief.

The shoe of a healthy foot should offer a perfectly flat surface to the ground. The bearing or weight of the horse will then be diffused over the surface of the shoe, and there will be no injurious accumulation of it on different points. Too often, however, there is a convexity toward the inner edge, which causes an inequality of bearing, and breaks and destroys the crust. Round the outer edge of the shoe, and extended over two-thirds of it on the lower surface, a groove is sunk, through which pass the nails for the fastening of the shoe. At first they somewhat project, but they are soon worn down to the level of the shoe, which in the healthy foot should not vary from the heel to the toe.

The width of the shoe will depend on that of the foot. The general rule is that it should protect the sole from injury, and be as wide at the heel as the frog will permit.

The upper surface of the shoe should be differently formed. It should be flat along the upper end, outer supporting the crust, or, in other words, the weight of the horse, and widest at the heel, so as to meet and withstand the shock of the bars and the crust. The inner portion of the shoe should be beveled off, in order that, in the descent of the sole, that part of the foot may not be bruised. The owner of the Horse should occasionally be present when the shoes are removed and he will be too often surprised to see how far the smith, almost wilfully, deviates from the right construction of this apparently simple apparatus. The beveled shoe is a little more troublesome to make and to apply than that which is often used by the village smith, but it will be the owner's fault if his directions are not implicitly obeyed.

Even at the commencement of the operation of shoeing, the eye of the master or the trustworthy groom will be requisite. The shoe is often torn from the foot in a most violent and cruel way. Scarcely half the clenches are raised when the smith seizes the shoe with his pincers and forcibly wrenches it off. The shrinking of the Horse will tell how much he suffers, and the fragments of the crust will also offer sufficient proofs of the mischief that has been done, especially when it is recollected that every nail-hole is enlarged by this brutal force, and the future safety of the shoe to a greater or a less degree weakened, and pieces of the nail are sometimes left in the substance of the crust, which become the cause of future disease.

In the pareing out of the foot, also there is frequently great mischief done. The formidable *butteris* is still often found in the smithy of the country farrier, although it is banished from the practice of every respectable operator. A worse evil, however, remains. By the butteris much of the sole was injuriously removed, and the foot was occasionally weakened, but the *drawing-knife* frequently left a portion of sole sufficient to destroy

the elasticity of the foot and to lay the foundation for contraction, corns and permanent lameness. One object then, of the looker-on is to ascertain the actual state of the foot. On the descent of the crust, when the foot is placed on the ground, depends the elasticity and healthy state of the foot, and that may be satisfactorily determined by the yielding of the sole, although to a very slight degree, when it is strongly pressed upon with the thumb. The sole being pared out, the crust on each side may be lowered, but never reduced to a level with the sole, otherwise, this portion will be exposed to continual injury.

The heels often suffer considerably from the carelessness or ignorance of the smith. The weight of the horse is not thrown equally on them, but considerably more on the inner than the outer quarter. The consequence of this is that the inner heel is worn down more than the outer, and the foundation is laid for tenderness and ulceration.—The smith is too often inattentive to this, and pares away an equal quantity of horn from the inner and outer heel, leaving the former weaker and lower, and less able to support the weight thrown upon it.

Mention has already been made of the use of the *bars* in admitting and yet limiting to its proper extent the expansion of the foot. The smith in the majority of country forges and in too many of those that disgrace the metropolis, seems to have waged interminable war with these portions of the foot, and avail himself of every opportunity to pare them down, or perfectly destroy them, forgetting, or never having learned, that the destruction of the bars necessarily leads to contraction by removing the chief impediment to it.

The horn between the crust and the bar should be well pared out. Every one accustomed to horses must have observed the great relief that is given to the horse with corns when this angle is pared out and yet from some fatality the smith rarely leaves it where Nature placed it, but cuts away every portion of it.

The true function of the frog is easily understood. It gives security to the tread, and contributes expansion to the heels; but the smith although these cases come before him every day seems to be quite unaware of the course which he should pursue, and either leaves the frog almost untouched and then it becomes bruised and injured, or he pares it away so that it cannot come into contact with the ground, and consequently is not enabled to do its duty.

The owner of the horse will therefore find it his interest occasionally to visit the forge, and guided by the simple principles which have been stated he will seldom err in his own opinion of what is going forward there. He should impress two principles deeply on his mind that a great deal more depends on the paring out of the foot than in the construction of the shoe: that few shoes, except they press upon the sole, or made shamefully bad, will lame the horse, but that he may be very easily lamed by an ignorant or improper paring out of the foot.

Where the owner of the horse has sufficient influence with the smith, he will find it advisable always to have a few sets of shoes ready made. Much time will be saved, in case of accident, and there will not be, as is too often the case, the cutting and paring and injuring of the foot, in order to make it fit the shoe. More injury than would be readly believed is done to the foot by contriving to get on too small a shoe.

MAGNANIMITY.—In Germany, during the war a captain of cavalry was ordered out upon a foraging expedition. He put himself at the head of his troop, and marched to the quarter assigned him. It was a solitary valley, in which hardly any thing but wood was to be perceived. Finding in the midst of it a small cottage, he approached and knocked at the door, which was opened by an old and venerable man, with a beard silvered by age. "Father," said the officer, "show me a field where I may set my troop to foraging." The old man complied and conducted them out of the valley, after a quarter of an hour's march came to a fine field of barley. "Here is what we are in search of," exclaimed the captain; "father you are a true and faithful guide." "Wait yet a few minutes," replied the old man; "follow me patiently a little further." The march was accordingly resumed, and at the distance of a mile they arrived at another field of barley. The troop immediately alighted, cut down the grain trussed it, and remounted. The officer thereupon said to his conductor, "father you have given yourself and us unnecessary trouble; the first field was far better than this." "Very true sir," replied the good old man, "but it was not mine."

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